



U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Emergency Management
In coordination with
Office of Law Enforcement and Security

Significant Incident Reports

November 15, 2017 - November 21, 2017



OEM/OLES Information Document

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National Park Service/U.S. Park Police

Visitor Fatality, Yosemite National Park, CA

On November 17, Yosemite Valley law enforcement rangers noticed a vehicle parked at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot for a length of time that caused suspicion. The owner of the vehicle, a 31-year-old male, was thought to be climbing Fifi Buttress. Supervisory law enforcement ranger assumed Incident Commander Role and a search was initiated. The body of the male was located and confirmed deceased. The point of contact for this report is Nancy Phillippe at (209) 379-1992.

Officer Involved Shooting, Washington, D.C.

On November 17, U.S. Park Police (USPP) Officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle wanted for fleeing the scene of a motor vehicle crash that occurred southbound on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) at Slaters Lane. The vehicle fled and lead USPP and Fairfax County PD officers on a pursuit which culminated at the intersection of Ft. Hunt Rd. at Alexandria Ave. The driver of the vehicle was shot by USPP officers and transported to Fairfax Hospital in critical condition. There were no other occupants in the vehicle. No officers were injured in the incident. The scene was secured by USPP with the assistance of Fairfax County. CIB, ID, TSU and IAU responded to the scene to process it and assist with the investigation. CIB and IAU also responded to the hospital. The point of contact for this report is Lt. Brian Huss at (202) 610-3505.

Fatality, Cape Cod National Seashore, MA

On November 16, a park visitor reported a deceased person lying on the ground at the Marconi Site in Wellfleet. A 79-year old male from Warwick, Rhode Island was pronounced dead by the state medical examiner. The manner of death is possible suicide by a single gunshot wound to the head. The Massachusetts State Police are the lead investigating agency. The town of Wellfleet Public Information Officer will be the media point of contact. A next of kin has not yet been located. The point of contact for this report is Chief Ranger Leslie Reynolds at (508)957-0735.

Fatality, Riis Landing, NY

On November 15, an unresponsive subject was discovered by fishermen on a beach at Riis Landing. USPP and EMS were contacted and responded. The subject was pronounced dead at the scene by EMS. The Medical Examiner did not observe any signs of criminality and believes

cause of death to be medical related or by drowning. An autopsy is pending and family has been notified. The point of contact for this report is Sgt. W. Wilkens at (917) 577-1696

Spill, Lake Mead NRA, AZ

On November 10, a report was received of a vessel accident resulting in a fuel spill at the Lake Mohave Resort Marina Fuel dock. The vessel left the scene and was a rental houseboat from Cottonwood Cove. The operator was located and admitted to the incident and was issued a mandatory appearance citation for violation of Navigation Rules. The spill was contained and the immediate area was evacuated. The spill was approximated at 240 gallons resulting in 100' x 200' sheen on the water that contained dissolved flotation materials from the fuel dock. Rangers procured additional booming materials from a nearby NPS maintenance facility. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) HAZMAT from Boulder City responded. Containment was completed after their arrival. The BOR, National Park Service (NPS) Rangers, and concession employees worked together to complete clean up the following day. The point of contact for this report is Adam Kelsey at (702) 293-8964.

Fatality, Miller Field, NY

On November 8, an unresponsive subject on Miller Field was reported to USPP. Officers arrived on scene and were unable to obtain any vital signs from the subject. CPR was initiated and a pulse was obtained by EMS. The subject was transported to the hospital where he was listed as a John Doe, in critical but stable condition. The subject died as a result of the event in the hospital that evening. Investigators were able to locate the family, who provided victim's identity. The point of contact for this report is Sgt. W. Wilkens at (917) 577-1696.

Visitor Fatality, Natchez Trace Parkway, TN

On November 5, Natchez Trace Parkway Dispatch received a call advising of a vehicle that collided with a bicycle near mile marker 418. The driver of the vehicle reportedly struck a cyclist, causing serious head and pelvic injuries. The cyclist was taken to the hospital, and the driver of the vehicle remained on scene. On November 8, the male cyclist succumbed to his injuries. National Park Service (NPS) Rangers are working with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding charges. The point of contact for this report is Sarah Davis at (662) 680-4002.

Bureau of Land Management

Human Remains, Lake Havasu Field Office, AZ

On November 13, BLM Law Enforcement was briefed by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office of a trailer fire that occurred on BLM managed public land at the Eureka Mine, located just outside of Lake Havasu City. The trailer was associated with a relatively minor mining trespass

being resolved through the Lake Havasu Field Office. Further investigation of the fire revealed human remains within the trailer. The remains appear to be affiliated with the subject responsible for the mining claim; however, a positive identification of the body is still pending. An active investigation through the Mohave County Sheriff's Office is also still pending. BLM employees assigned to the Lake Havasu Field Office, who were some of the last individuals known to have visited the claim, are assisting the Mohave County Sheriff's Office in documenting the condition of the area before the fire. Mining equipment remains on scene, which will also require follow-up from the BLM Colorado River District after the investigation is completed. The point of contact for this report is Annmarie Jaeger at (303) 239-3956.

Contract Aircraft Accident with Injuries, Rock Springs Field Office, WY

On November 15, a plane crash was reported to the High Desert District Ranger. The accident was just off Highway 370, two miles west of the Rock Springs airport. The Cessna 207 was contracted by Rock Springs Field Office to conduct a wild horse census. The plane was returning to the airport when it experienced a fuel system failure. The pilot made a hard landing next to the highway. Four people, one of which was a BLM Idaho employee, occupied the plane. Three of the occupants were transported to the hospital and the pilot remained on scene. Wyoming Highway Patrol initially investigated the crash and the plane remained on scene for investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. The point of contact for this report is Annmarie Jaeger at (303) 239-3956.

Drug Seizure, Lower Sonoran Field Office, AZ

On November 15, a BLM Law Enforcement Ranger was conducting a foot patrol of a known drug smuggling route on BLM managed public lands in the Lower Sonoran Field Office. While searching the area for evidence, the Ranger located an abandoned backpack containing marijuana. The backpack was turned over to The Arizona Department of Public Safety. The weight of marijuana was 44 pounds. The point of contact for this report is Annmarie Jaeger at (303) 239-3956.

Fatality, Knik River, AK

On November 9, the Alaska State Troopers (AST) dispatch received a report of a vehicle at the bottom of a cliff near the Goose Bay Airport on the Knik River, near the town of Palmer, Alaska. The vehicle was registered to a Palmer resident who was reported as missing on October 19. The vehicle was partially covered with tidal silt and only accessible at low tide. Members of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group assisted AST in reaching the vehicle and recovering a body located within. The occupant was identified as the missing Palmer resident. The State Medical Examiner (ME) conducted an autopsy on the decedent and determined the cause of death to be blunt force trauma consistent with the apparent nature of the motor vehicle accident. The ME did not note any suspicious injuries as part of the autopsy. The Anchorage Field Office Law Enforcement Ranger visited the site and determined that the location of the initial incident was on BLM managed public lands. The final resting place of the vehicle, being below the mean high tide line, is located on State managed public lands. AST is leading the ongoing

investigation and the case is expected to be closed as a fatal Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) with no suspicion of foul play. The point of contact for this report is Annmarie Jaeger at (303) 239-3956.

Visitor Fatality, Red Rock National Conservation Area, NV

On November 18, BLM Rangers on patrol within the Red Rock National Conservation Area (NCA) received a report of a male who fell approximately 100 feet, reportedly landing on his head. Rangers were notified CPR was in progress. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter, a LVMPD Resident Officer, BLM Rangers, and the Las Vegas Fire Department responded. A BLM Ranger secured a landing zone at the Red Rock Overlook for the responding LVMPD SAR helicopter. Responding medical personnel hiked from the Sandstone Quarry trailhead to the victim's location while members of the public were providing initial medical aid. Responding medical personnel determined the hiker had sustained fatal injuries and directed members of the public to cease CPR. The Clark County Coroner was contacted to make the on-scene death declaration. The LVMPD SAR helicopter recovered and transported the decedent to the Red Rock overlook for ground transportation. The point of contact for this report is Annmarie Jaeger at (303) 239-3956.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Threat to Federal Employee, Ennis National Fish Hatchery, MT

On November 18, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Special Agent in Charge (SAC) reported a landowner from a neighboring property threatened a federal employee at the Ennis National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in Montana. The federal employee encountered the individual on hatchery property and the individual became belligerent and challenged the employee to leave the federal property and fight him. The employee broke contact and returned to his office. The Madison County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident. The OLES is dispatching an Agent to the Fish Hatchery to provide security while the incident is investigated. The Madison County Sheriff's Office is the lead investigative agency. The point of contact for this report is SAC Steve Oberholtzer at (303) 720-0734.

Search and Rescue, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, VA

On November 18, a Federal Wildlife Officer (FWO) reported that a search and rescue operation was underway at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia for an overdue hunter. On November 19, the lost hunter and a non-hunting companion were located by helicopter and subsequently guided to safety by search and rescue ground crews. The Suffolk Police Department assisted with the search and rescue. The point of contact for this report is Rod Hansen at (571) 327-6965.

Apparent Suicide, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, TX

On November 19, a Federal Wildlife Officer (FWO) reported a deceased individual was located and recovered from Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. The cause of death is being investigated as a suicide. FWO's and deputies from the Travis County Sheriff's office had been searching the area after the victim's vehicle had been discovered on the refuge. The vehicle was associated with a missing person's report. The Travis County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency. The point of contact is Federal Wildlife Officer Lionel Castillo (830) 220-3130.